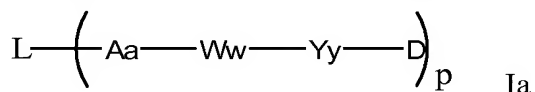


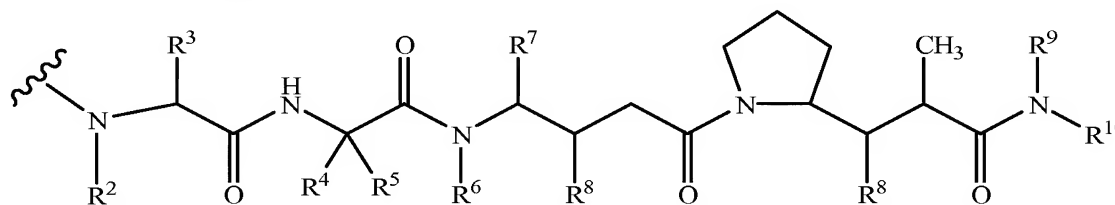
Amendments to the Specification:

Please delete the abstract and insert the revised version presented below:

Compounds and compositions are disclosed in which a Drug unit (D) is linked to a Ligand unit (L). In an exemplary embodiment, the compound is of the formula



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, where A is a stretcher unit, W is an amino acid unit, Y is a spacer unit, D is of the formula



and a, w, y, p and R²-R¹⁰ are as disclosed in the specification. Methods for treating cancer, autoimmune disease, and infectious disease using the compounds and compositions of the invention are also disclosed.

Please delete the paragraph on page 180, lines 34-37 and insert the paragraph presented below in amended form:

In still another embodiment, the other therapeutic agent can be an opioid or non-opioid analgesic agent. Suitable opioid analgesic agents include, but are not limited to, morphine, heroin, hydromorphone, hydrocodone, oxymorphone, oxycodone, metopon, apomorphine, normorphine, etorphine, buprenorphine, meperidine, lopermide, anileridine, ethoheptazine, piminidine, betaprodine, diphenoxylate, fentanil, sufentanil, alfentanil, remifentanil, levorphanol, dextromethorphan, phenazocine, pentazocine, cyclazocine, methadone, isomethadone and propoxyphene. Suitable non-opioid analgesic agents include, but are not limited to, aspirin, celecoxib, rofecoxib, diclofinac, diflusal, etodolac, fenoprofen, flurbiprofen, ibuprofen, ketoprofen, indomethacin, ketorolac, meclofenamate, mefanamic acid, nabumetone, naproxen, piroxicam and sulindac.

Please delete the text on page 181 of the specification.

Please delete the paragraph on page 217, lines 19-28 and insert the paragraph presented below in amended form:

The white solid intermediate (259 mg, 0.0538 mmol, 1.0 eq.), MMAE (464 mg, 0.646 mmol, 1.2 eq.), and HOBt (14.5 mg, 0.108 mmol, 0.2 eq.) were diluted in pyridine/DMF (1:5, 6 mL), and the resulting reaction was stirred for about 10 h, after which time RP-HPLC indicated incomplete reaction. The reaction mixture was concentrated, the resulting crude residue was diluted using DMF (3 mL), and to the resulting mixture was added diisopropylethylamine (0.469 mL, 0.538 mmol, 1.0 eq.) and the resulting reaction was allowed to stir for about 16 hr. The reaction mixture was directly purified by radial thin layer chromatography using the CHROMATOTRON® Chromatotron® centrifugal thin-layer chromatograph (radial thin layer chromatography) with a step gradient (0-5% methanol in dichloromethane), to provide Compound 87 as a white solid. Yield: 217 mg (38%); ES-MS m/z 1082.64 $[M+Na]^+$; UV λ_{max} 215, 248 nm.